

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. M:21-173

Magi No.

DOE yes no

00036

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Oscar Fulks/ Wm. Harding Houseand/or common Mathias Service Center

## 2. Location

street & number 24 W. Diamond Avenue not for publicationcity, town Gaithersburg vicinity of congressional district 9thstate Maryland county Montgomery

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Stanley L. and L.R. Mathiasstreet & number 2 Marquise Drive telephone no.:city, town Gaithersburg state and zip code MD 20879

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse 5182/814street & number 50 Courthouse Square 750/360city, town Rockville state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Nonedate \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

pository for survey records

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

## 7. Description

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### Condition

☐ excellent  
☐ good  
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☒ unaltered  
☐ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The subject house faces south on a quarter-acre rectangular lot between the railroad and Diamond Avenue on a busy four-lane highway. Although the area was residential in character until 1978, this is one of only two single-family houses left in this two-block portion of West Diamond Avenue. A lumber yard and home center with a large parking area is to the south and commercial properties are to the west. Maryland State Highway #355 railroad overpass is to the east. The house retains its residential front lawn and foundation shrubbery while a paved auto storage lot is north of the house and a metal multi-bay automobile service center and parking area on an adjacent .5 acre parcel is north and east. The house has been changed only in the enclosure of the rear porch, which is reversible.

Built in 1921, the 2-1/2 story frame foursquare is a 2-bay by 2-bay rectangular house with a one-story wrap front porch wrapping to the east side and a shed-roofed rear porch. It has a flat-centered hipped roof clad with pressed design terne metal shingles with a central hipped-roof 2-light dormer on the front. The single and paired windows are 2/2 wooden sashes with plain surrounds. The exterior cladding is wood clapboard. The foundation has been parged and there is one central brick chimney.

The 2-bay south (front) facade has two small square lights in the attic dormer, one window in each bay of the 2nd story, an exterior door with transom in the west bay, 1st story, and a pair of windows in the east bay, 1st story. The full-width one-story front porch wraps half-way around the east facade. Its shallow-hipped roof with exposed rafter ends is supported by seven Doric columns connected by a plain stick and rail balustrade. It rests on brick piers and is accessed by a concrete walk from Diamond Avenue to a set of five wooden steps with a wooden hand rail.

The 2-bay west facade has one window in the north bay and a central window on the 2nd story and one window in each bay on the first story. The 2-bay east facade has a window in each bay on the 2nd story, a pair of windows in the south bay and one window in the north bay on the first story. The 2-bay north (rear) facade has a window in each bay on the second story, a window in the east bay, a central door and an enclosed porch in the west bay.

## 8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
1921 (BP)	Unknown
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This foursquare house was built on Diamond Avenue as a rental house in 1921. For many years it was the home of William Clinton and Mary Ellen Harding and their family of eight children. Mr. Harding was the watchman at the B&O Railroad crossings at Chestnut, Frederick, and Summit Avenues. It is virtually unaltered except for the enclosure of the rear porch which is considered reversible.

### MARYLAND HISTORICAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: 3) Piedmont, Montgomery County, Town/City of Gaithersburg

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): 11) Industrial/Urban Dominance, A.D. 1870-1930

Historic Period Theme(s): 2) Architecture/Landscape Architecture, Community Planning

Resource Type: Building/domestic, single dwelling, residence

Category: Building/Late 19th and Early 20th Century/ Foursquare

Historic Environment: Suburban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Domestic/single dwelling/ frame detached residence

Known Design Source: None

Continued on Attachment 8, page 1

History and Significance: 24 W. Diamond Avenue  
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#### HISTORY AND SUPPORT

This land is the fourth of four parcels totaling 173 acres of "Summit Hall" purchased by Ignatius T. Fulks from John T. DeSellum in January 25, 1886 for \$10,000.<sup>1</sup> It was described as beginning at "a stone located on the Rail Road line, it being the beginning of the dividing line between DeSellum and Meem... to a stone on the first line of R.G. Dorsey's lot, there on said line... East to a stone, the beginning of said lot, then with a straight line to the beginning containing one acre of land more or less."<sup>2</sup>

On the 1894 Charles Maddox Jr. "Map of Gaithersburg", the firm of Ward and Fulks is shown holding land on both sides of the railroad between Chestnut Street and Diamond Avenue: three acres north of the railroad now known as the Thomas Cannery property, and a triangular parcel south of the railroad. This triangle was the one acre parcel purchased by Fulks from John DeSellum in 1886.

The firm of Ward and Fulks did not survive the death of Henry C. Ward in 1890.<sup>3</sup> Fulks evidently retained his one acre lot, as in 1919, at age 86, he began to devise his land holdings to his children and their spouses on a lease-to-ownership basis.

In 1919, Ignatius Fulks deeded the one acre of land, described as "part of a tract of land called "Summit Hall...lying between the Baltimore and Ohio Right of Way and the Barnesville Road where it intersects Frederick Road" to his son Oscar Fulks. Unlike other property bequests to his children, Fulks did not mention a house on this property.<sup>4</sup>

The Minutes of the Town of Gaithersburg record a building permit issued to Oscar Fulks on February 17, 1921, which probably is 24 W. Diamond. The house is typical of the foursquare house popular in the late teens and twenties: a rectangular two-story frame house with four square rooms on each floor, a central dormered hipped roof, and a Doric-columned wrap-around front porch with exposed rafter ends and a shed-roofed rear porch.

Oscar Fulks owned the property until 1936, when he and his wife Edith M. Fulks sold it to the Citizens Building and Loan Association of Montgomery County Inc.<sup>5</sup>

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

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SECTION 8, PAGE 2

History and Significance: 24 W. Diamond Avenue  
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According to daughter Alice Harding Pumphrey and son Benjamin's widow, Ethel, William Clinton Harding was a crossing watchman for the B&O Railroad and lived in this house in the twenties and mid-thirties. Mr. Harding and his wife Mary Ellen (Howard) Harding originally came from Boyds, Maryland and had eight surviving children: William, Annie, Deborah, John, Benjamin, Mary Ellen and twins Alice and Upton. He first worked at Brown's Station, then Chestnut Street (Ward's Station), then the Frederick Avenue crossing. He stayed at Frederick Avenue until the railroad overpass was completed in 1930, then moved to Summit Avenue. When 24 W. Diamond was sold in 1936, he moved next door to another Fulks rental house on Diamond and then to Blanche Fulks Severance's rental property at 20 South Summit Avenue, which he later purchased (see 20 S. Summit Avenue).<sup>6</sup>

The one acre was divided into two parts and sold in 1939 to a local farmer and businessman, William Lawson King.<sup>7</sup> The site of the house at 24 W. Diamond Avenue is the western portion, described as being along the line between DeSillum and George Meem's property and approximately 100 feet along the railroad and Diamond Avenue containing .271 acre. The second part continues east to the tip of the triangle running 338 feet along W. Diamond Avenue to the Railroad right-of-way near Frederick Avenue, then follows the right-of-way back to the beginning, altogether one-half acre more or less.

About .229 acre of the original one acre parcel is missing. Although no reference is made in the land records, it can be assumed that the building of the railroad overpass slightly west of the original line of Frederick Avenue in 1929 accounted for this loss. This parcel was probably reduced again by the widening of West Diamond and the construction of a new interchange and railroad overpass when Frederick Avenue was widened.

In 1973, W. Lawson King sold both properties to Stanley L. and L.R. Mathias who established their auto body and repair business on the site.<sup>8</sup> The house is still used as a single family residence.

(1) Montgomery County Land Record JA1/221 (Jan. 25, 1886).

(2) Ibid.

(3) Gaithersburg: The Heart of Montgomery County, City of Gaithersburg, 1987. p.407.

(4) Land Record 282/340 (July 25, 1919).

(5) Land Record 628/348 (June 25, 1936).

(6) Personal interviews with Ethel Harding and Alice Harding Pumphrey, July/August 1992.

(7) Land Records 750/360 and 361 (Sept. 26/1939) Release by Citizen's Building and Loan Association, Frank L. Hewett, to W. Lawson King)

(8) Land Record 5182/814 (Aug. 4, 1973) Stanley L. and L.R. Mathias from W. Lawson King - .271 acre.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. M-21-173

Montgomery County Land Records; 1894 Maddox Map of Gaithersburg, Interviews with Ethel Harding and Alice Harding Pumphrey, The Montgomery County Sentinel newspaper.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .271 acre

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

B 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Part Summit Hall, fronting on West Diamond Avenue

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Judy Christensen - Historian- ArchHistory Services		
organization	For the City of Gaithersburg, MD	August, 1992	
street & number	6 Walker Avenue	telephone	301-926-2650
city or town	Gaithersburg	state	MD 20877

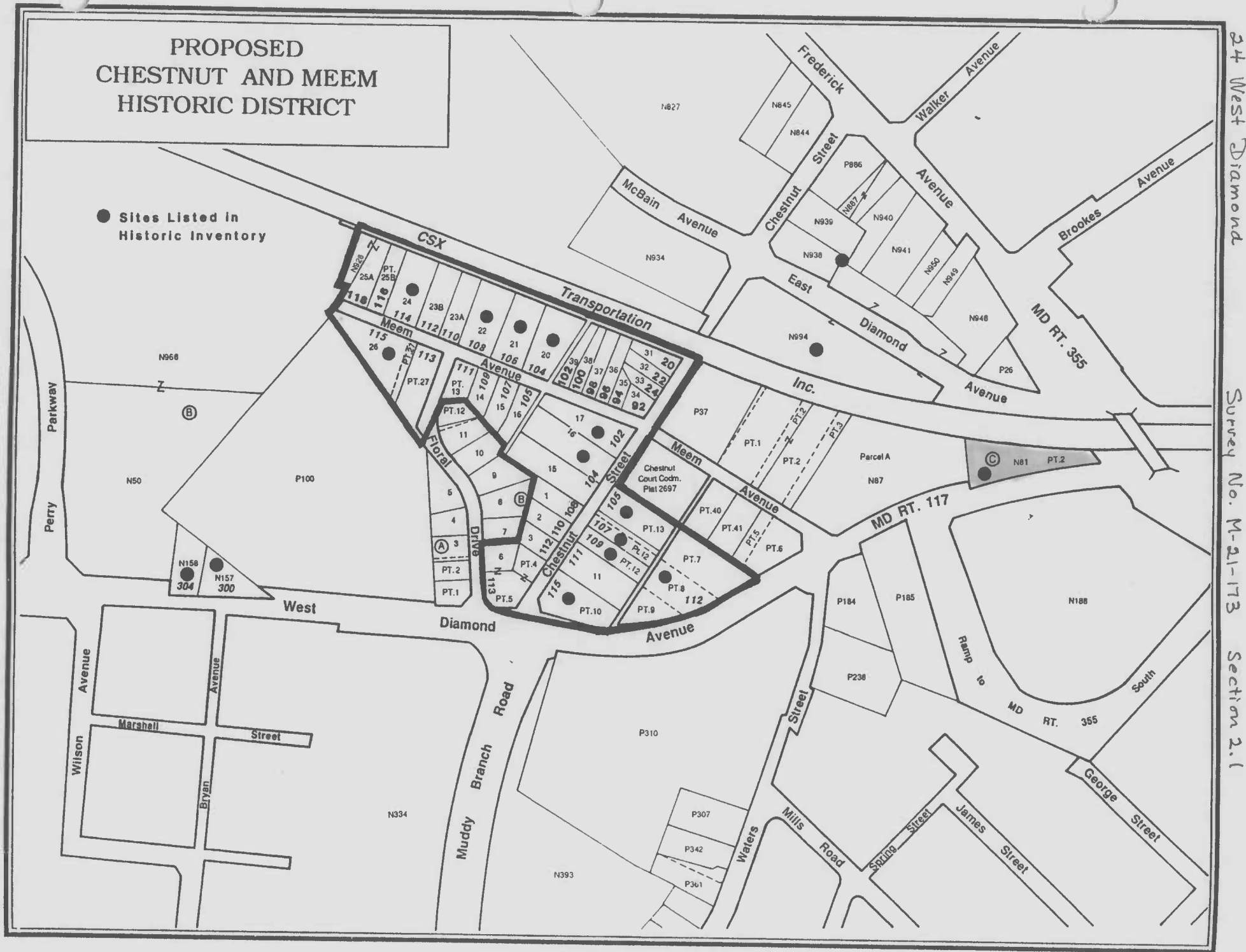
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

# PROPOSED CHESTNUT AND MEEM HISTORIC DISTRICT

● Sites Listed in  
Historic Inventory







M: 21-173

24 W. Diamond Ave.

1990

East & South (front) facades.



24 West Diamond Ave.

MI: 21-173

North Crear] facade

1990





M: 21-173

24 W. Diamond Ave.  
1990

West & South (front) facades.





~~22~~ West Diamond Ave

M: 21-173

22 West. Diamond Avenue

Mathias Service Center

South Sacadu

1990